

TAFT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited Taft Community Correctional Facility (TCCF) on April 27, 2010, to inquire into the facility pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Lieutenant of the TCCF, was given a tour and the Committee's questions were answered.

BACKGROUND:

The TCCF is located at 330 Commerce Way in Taft adjacent to the Taft Police Department and began operations as a correctional facility in 1991. The TCCF is a private correctional facility owned and operated by the City of Taft under contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. A total of 63 employees includes: Manager, Captain, four Lieutenants, four Sergeants, two Senior Correctional Officers, 42 Correctional Officers, four teachers, a Maintenance Supervisor, two Maintenance Techs and a Medical Tech.

FINDINGS:

1. The TCCF is a two story building with four dormitories on each level that can house up to 68 inmates each. The TCCF has a capacity for 544 inmates and on the day of the visit the count was 544. Inmates are held at the TCCF for up to three years. There is a control room on the first and second floor used for audio and visual monitoring of inmates in the entire area 24/7.
2. The TCCF vocational training programs include a basic computer lab with 20 workstations and basic carpentry/wood shop. The TCCF recreational library operated by the inmates has hundreds of paperback books and current periodicals. The inmates refurbish bicycles for the City of Taft Police Department which are distributed to needy children throughout the year.
3. Inmates operate the laundry and also provide clean linens to the Taft Police Department jail.
4. The TCCF has an Inmate Work Program crew that provides daily landscape maintenance for the City of Taft.

5. The TCCF kitchen facility is operated by the inmates and serves two hot meals and a sack lunch during the week and three hot meals a day on weekends.
6. A medical doctor is on duty during the week from 8 a.m. until “sick calls” are completed. After “sick calls” are completed medical needs are evaluated by the Medical Tech and patient inmates are transported to Wasco State Prison as needed.
7. Visiting hours at the TCCF are Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

COMMENTS:

The TCCF staff is commended for a well organized and clean facility.

The TCCF should examine the possibility of expanding the use of prison labor work crews in the community.

Further information on the Taft Community Correctional Facility may be obtained on the website: www.taftcityhall.com.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taft Community Correctional Facility should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Law Library and on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED